

forward

Fluor Daniel Fernald

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February 1998

"It's not like people aren't going to notice if they don't get their paychecks."

Most of us look forward to holidays with anticipation, but the team members in the Payroll Section have mixed emotions. The payroll cycle begins on Fridays when salaried time sheets are due and doesn't stop until the checks are distributed on Thursdays. Every day is crucial to the successful completion of the process. "When we miss a day because of a holiday or computer problems, it puts a lot of pressure on us," said Marilyn Woods, Payroll team leader. "It's not like people aren't going to notice if they don't get their paychecks."

On Fridays, Julie Noel, Michelle Sizemore and Wanda Schuh begin looking over the time sheets for missing badge numbers and signatures, incorrect dates, untotaled columns and illegible handwriting.

Wage time sheets are due on Mondays and that's when Connie Gregory and Charlotte James spring into action. They divide all time sheets into salaried exempt or non-exempt and wage categories and then organize them by badge number. "Every single time sheet needs to be keyed in by hand," James said. "The volume is incredible. We get

sheets that are two and three pages long."

Tuesdays are spent calling everyone who didn't turn in a time sheet, auditing the keypunching, overseeing the computer runs and printing the checks. "It's easier to call people than it is to cut them a manual check," Schuh explained. "Cutting a manual check is almost like running a mini-payroll."

If you've always taken for granted the fact that your paycheck is in the right place at the right time each pay period, here's something you should know: it takes Noel between five and six hours every Wednesday to sort the checks by division and department. "I end up dividing about 2,000 paychecks into 20 different bundles," Noel said.

"We spend most of the day on Thursday doing everything we don't have time for the rest of the week," Taylor said. "We update reports, verify employment, and process workers' compensation paperwork, and then on Friday, we start all over again."



Above: Wanda Schuh sorts envelopes while the rest of the Payroll staff keeps busy overseeing the printing process (6797-17).

On the cover: Just when we thought we were going to get by with a mild winter, Mother Nature hit us with a major snowstorm. Thanks to the efforts of Ron McCloud and the rest of the maintenance laborers, heavy equipment operators and the Transportation Department, the impact to the site was negligible. As a result of their hard work, we avoided serious injuries from slips, trips and falls in spite of the inclement weather (6817-8).

The air we breathe

The professionals working in Fernald's Dioctyl Phthalate (DOP) Shop take their work very seriously, and that's good because it's very serious work. To be used on site, all High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters must pass inspection at the DOP Shop. "We inspect all filters and put them through a series of tests before they get our approval," said Lee Mericle, a millwright who has worked in the DOP Shop for 11 years. "We're the last line of defense between our field personnel and dirty air. I can't imagine a more important job."

Working in the DOP Shop requires extensive training and hands-on experience. "This work is technical and precise," said Tim Smith, DOP Shop team leader. "Every day, they're making decisions that affect the safety of our workforce. Before they're put in the position of making those decisions, they complete eight months of intense training."

"I enjoy this job because there's a new challenge every day, and every day we figure it out as a team," said pipefitter Paul Flynn. "I'm proud of the work we do here. I know that because of us, people are protected."

Flynn joined the DOP crew two years ago after working in Safe Shutdown — where he used the equipment he now services. "I know from first-hand experience how important it is to have a HEPA vacuum you can trust," he said. "If a vacuum isn't operating at 99.97 percent efficiency, it doesn't leave here."

"Our customers come first," Mericle said. "We treat every piece of equipment we inspect as if we were the ones breathing the air. You can't ask for a much higher standard than that."



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Don Bryant (right), Paul Flynn (left), Bob Halley and Lee Mericle (not pictured) comprise the DOP Shop crew -- a team that epitomizes quality (6813-15).



Top: Crews are replacing sections of the existing railroad ties at Shandon Yard in support of the waste pits cleanup (6803-11).

Bottom: By using a 135-foot lift, the crews working at the Boiler Plant have greatly reduced the necessity of walking on the roof of the building - saving time and increasing safety (6407-437).

■ Waste Pits Remedial Action Project

- Continued on-site rail infrastructure construction completed erection of rail maintenance facility.
- Began Shandon Yard upgrade construction.
- Acquired two excessed 60-ton locomotives from the Department of Defense.

■ On-Site Disposal Facility

- The following individuals were recognized by the Department of Energy for their contributions in making the first waste placement into the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) a reality: Mike Godber, Don Goetz, Warren Hooper, Jim Jenkins, Gregg Johnson, Uday Kumthekar, Rick McGuire and Bill Zebick. Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!

■ Facilities Closure & Demolition Project

Safe Shutdown —

- Crews removing holdup material from the fourth floor of the Digestion Area of Plant 2 were required to wear lifelines at all times to prevent them falling to the first floor. This was a challenging job that Kelly Baker, Gary Steele, Denver Morris, Tony Coombs, Greg Engle, Chondalyn King, Calvin Lee and John Hoffman performed safely.

Decontamination and Dismantlement—

- Boiler Plant/Water Plant— Removed windows, exterior transite and more than a mile of railroad tracks.
- Plant 9— Began friable asbestos abatement, equipment removal and interior demolition activities.

■ Silos Projects

- Briefed stakeholders on *Request for Proposal (RFP) for Proof-of-Principle Testing* and Initial Screening of Technologies.
- Responded to vendor/stakeholder comments received on the *Silo 3 Draft RFP* and decided to modify the RFP to include off-site treatment.
- Completed evaluation of Silo 4 core sampling test results. Based on these results and other existing data, further integrity testing of the silos does not appear to be necessary.

■ Aquifer Restoration & Waste Water Project

- Submitted *Draft Start-Up Monitoring Plan* for South Field Extraction & South Plume Optimization project modules to regulatory agencies.
- Continued readiness-to-operate activities associated with Advanced Wastewater Treatment Resin Regeneration System.

■ Soils Characterization & Excavation Project

- Completed the Paddy's Run Embankment Stabilization Project.

■ Waste Management/Nuclear Materials Disposition Projects

- Nuclear Materials Disposition Operations— Continued packaging/preparation of metal shipments in support of contract to sell low-enriched uranium materials.
- T-Hopper Repackaging System— Completed System Operability Testing, performed standard startup review and began operations.



Top: To improve access to the area, workers paved the entrance to the South Field, located north of Willey Road (6261-293).

Bottom: Riprap was added to the embankment along Paddy's Run to stabilize excessive erosion (6690-28).

Left: Team members prepare a 10-gallon container of UF₄ for analysis (6731-2).



“Realizing this job isn’t going to be here forever has helped me understand the importance of being open to new things.”

Although Ray Evans does a lot of physical labor as a hazardous waste worker, he adds balance to his life by making quilts (6814-10).

Come see the softer side

Ray Evans is a self-proclaimed outdoorsman and can talk for hours about hunting and fishing and other stereotypical manly endeavors. But if you really want to see his eyes light up, ask him about his quilting. “I know it’s not something a lot of people think of as a manly thing to do, but I love it,” he said. “It’s fun to follow the patterns and it’s relaxing.”

As a child, Evans would watch his mother piecing quilts together by hand and remembers the hours she spent on each one. “I always liked to watch her do it, but I hated how long it took her to finish,” he said. “I decided if I was going to get serious about this, I’d try to make it as easy for myself as possible.”

He accomplished that goal by buying a quilting machine. “It’s about 12 feet long and sits in my dining room,” Evans explained. “Using that machine, I can make a queen-sized quilt in a weekend if I really work at it.”

A hazardous waste worker by day, Evans is an expert on Plant 2/3, the former Ore Refinery Plant. “I thought we’d be in production long after I retired, but about a year after we shut down it started to sink in,” he said. “Realizing this job isn’t going to be here forever has helped me understand the importance of being open to new things. There’s a whole world out there and the only one who can stop me from exploring it is me.”

Building a dream

Making dreams come true — that's what Habitat for Humanity is all about. For Maria and William Johnson, that dream came closer to reality in January, when volunteers began building a new home for their family.

Every weekend, Fernald team members and other volunteers from the Westfed Coalition can be found at 3829 Herron Avenue in South Cumminsville hammering, drilling and painting their way to a new home.

Since its inception in 1985, Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity has been responsible for building more than 25 homes in the greater Cincinnati area. Partner families must put in 500 hours of "sweat equity" into their own home and future housing for others. The home is then sold to the family through a no-interest, 20-year mortgage. Payments received from homeowners go directly into a fund to build more homes.

Fluor Daniel Fernald is the largest single contributor to this Habitat house, which should be completed this spring.

Right: John Homer is one of several Fluor Daniel Fernald team members who have donated their time to build the Habitat for Humanity house in South Cumminsville (6725-30).



Above: Approximately 400 attendees, including Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls and Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce President John Williams, were present as John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president, accepted the "Corporation of the Year" award at the Cincinnati Minority Supplier Development Council banquet (6806-16).

Fluor Daniel Fernald named "Corporation of the Year"

Congratulations to Fluor Daniel Fernald for being named "Corporation of the Year" by the Cincinnati Minority Supplier Development Council. The company was recognized for its innovative approach in working with small, small-disadvantaged and woman-owned businesses.

"I was honored to accept this award," said John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president. "Strong support from Fluor Corporation, the Department of Energy, and our senior management have helped us achieve tremendous success in our outreach efforts at the local and national level."

In 1997, Fluor Daniel Fernald won the Department of Energy's Mentor Protégé Program of the Year award and was also recognized as "Outstanding Agency for 1997" by the Minority Business Opportunity Committee. In addition, the company received an "excellent" rating for its subcontracting program by the Small Business Administration.

Having subcontracted the services of more than 500 Ohio businesses since December 1992, Fluor Daniel Fernald has distinguished itself in the area of socioeconomic development.



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